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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

: Kenji ASAKURA et al. **Applicants**

Confirmation No.: 8733

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Examiner: Quana M. Grainger

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For

: IMAGE HEATING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING

APPARATUS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.112

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Official Action of April 9, 2008, in which a threemonth shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on July 9, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper:

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper: